



RIDE WORLD WIDE

CHILE, PATAGONIA

TORRES DEL PAINE 2025-2026

RIDE INFORMATION

These trips explore the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park in southern Patagonia, an area with scenery that is undoubtedly some of the wildest and most breath-taking in the world - iconic granite spires, blue glaciers flowing down from the Southern Patagonian Ice Cap, turquoise lakes and forests of southern beech trees all against a backdrop of jagged snow-capped peaks. The rides are organised with Osvaldo Mella who was born and bred in this part of Patagonia and has spent much of his life riding in the area. He has also worked in Canada and Australia and speaks fluent English which, together with his knowledge and love of Patagonia, make him an excellent guide and companion. No visit to Patagonia should be undertaken without preparedness for the vagaries of its weather which is notoriously unstable, can change quickly and cover all seasons in a day! Anyone joining one of these rides needs to keep this firmly in mind - but we think you will be more than compensated by the wonderful riding country.



DATES

Set date rides are offered between October and March, usually for 6 nights, including 5 days riding, and using different standards of accommodation. Private rides and tailor-made itineraries can also be arranged on request for groups of 2 or more throughout the same season. Please see set departure dates overleaf and contact Ride World Wide to discuss your plans and availability.

HORSES

The horses used are all owned by Osvaldo and his family and have been bred on local estancias. They are cross breeds, usually Chilean horse or Criollo mix, and of a medium build ranging from about 14.2hh to 16hh making them a little taller than the local horses of northern Chile. They are good-natured and a sensible, forward going and responsive ride, bred primarily for working with sheep and cattle. All the horses are used to neck reining.

TACK

Saddles are Patagonia style - a simple wooden tree with quite a high back and front - and there is a large comfortable sheepskin covering the saddle. Stirrups and stirrup leathers are English style. Bridles are usually rawhide, with traditional Chilean style long-shanked bits (light contact with the mouth is required). Saddle bags are provided.

RIDING

There is generally between 5 and 6 hours in the saddle each riding day, covering 30 to 40 kms. Riding is broken up with rest stops and a break for lunch, to stretch legs with a walk, to photograph and admire the spectacular views. Trips are run for a minimum of 2 and maximum of 6 riding guests. Due to the remote location and stamina required it is important that all participants are physically fit, riding fit and generally in good overall health.

WEIGHT LIMIT

90 kgs / 14st 4lbs (in riding clothes) although occasionally heavier, experienced riders can be taken by prior arrangement. If you are close to this weight, please check with us.



PACE

The pace on the rides varies with the terrain but overall expect it to be moderate and well balanced. The going in much of the National Park is grassy and soft and Patagonia's tremendous open spaces allow plenty of opportunities for fast riding - long exhilarating canters on open plains and along broad valleys that run amongst the Paine Massif. At other times, the pace is slower as you weave through forests of southern beech, wade across glacial rivers, climb rough mountain passes to admire views towards spectacular mountains and glaciers, and ride along the lake shores. There may also be the odd occasion where you get off to walk a short way and lead your horse over rough going.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

The rides are best suited to reasonably competent riders who are secure in the saddle, fit and comfortable on a horse in open country and over different terrain at all paces. They are aimed at those with a reasonable amount of riding experience, although there is a good selection of well mannered, steady but forward going horses to suit different abilities well. It is very important to be riding fit as riding hours are long and the open space is ideal for long canters - every participant should put in plenty of practice to get saddle fit before travel.

TERRAIN

The terrain in the area changes during every ride, varying from rolling grass-covered plains to rough mountain paths strewn with boulders and steep wooded valleys. High snow-clad mountains and huge glaciers sweep down through the beech forest and spill out into numerous blue-grey lakes and always, as a dramatic back drop, is the great Paine Massif which you will see from many different angles. There is some roadwork within the park, mostly on dirt roads but also a few short stretches of tarmac.



WILDLIFE

There are over one hundred bird species in the Paine area including giant Condors, flamingos, ibis, black necked swans, rheas and austral parrots. Twenty-five different species of mammal include guanaco (the wild version of the Llama) which you may see in large numbers, fox, hares and, with the Paine Reserve *the* place in South America you are most likely to catch a glimpse of puma (although even here you have to be lucky!) there is plenty for the wildlife enthusiast.

ACCOMMODATION



On the Baguales Mountains to Rio Serrano ride accommodation is the highest standard available in locations that make the most of the area's dramatic scenery. The first 2 nights are at 'Baguales Glamping' sleeping in domed camping 'pods' with big windows that allow you to enjoy the magnificent view. Each dome has twin or double beds, an en-suite bathroom (loo and shower) and a woodburning stove. The next two nights are spent at a family run estancia (farm) adjacent to the National Park which offers simple but comfortable guest rooms in one of the estancia houses (bathrooms here are not en-suite and may be shared). The last 2 nights are in a comfortable hotel (or private Refugio) in the village of Rio Serrano. Although this can be busy in peak holiday times with walkers and other visitors coming and going, it is set in a beautiful position in the centre of the Park and worth it for the location. The restaurant, as well as many rooms, have extraordinary views of the Paine Massif. Other itineraries can sometimes be arranged on request using more simple accommodation.



MEALS

Food is wholesome, generous and surprisingly varied bearing in mind the remoteness of the area and that all supplies have to be transported into the Park especially. Days start with an ample breakfast at your accommodation - there might be a choice of cereal, toast or bread, ham and / or cheese and sometimes a cooked breakfast on offer. Lunches are usually carried in saddle bags to eat 'picnic style' en-route, or at a restaurant where possible if weather is bad. Dinner varies with the accommodation - when staying at private estancias, your main dish might be a delicious 'asado' barbecue of local lamb or beef, fresh fish with a vegetarian option available; on other nights there may be a buffet style dinner with a few different dishes or a 'menu' - typically a choice of a soup or salad starter, a main course of fish, beef or chicken with a variety of salads and vegetables and a pudding / fruit. Some beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and some wine is included with dinner. Extra drinks can be purchased at the hotels / estancias. Food overall is good and varied and your hosts will do their best to cater for any particular dietary requests as long as prior notice is given but you should be aware that because of the area's remoteness, much depends on availability of supplies, which have to be brought in from the nearest town. Menus vary depending on what is on offer at the time locally - fresh fruit and vegetables can be hard to get or supplies limited.

WEATHER

The weather in Patagonia is notoriously variable and although it is often milder in the Park than in the surrounding regions, you need to be prepared for weather extremes and temperatures which can change rapidly, sometimes freezing at night, rising to about 20-25°C on a still, cloudless afternoon, then dropping suddenly again. As well as this, the wind can be extremely strong at any time, it is possible to experience all four seasons in a single day and rain, generally in squally showers, is possible at any time. Come prepared!

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a suggested equipment list when your booking is confirmed.

ITINERARIES

The route for the 6 night Baguales to Rio Serrano ride starts in the mountains to the north of Torres del Paine, close to the border with Argentina, and heads south, crossing estancia and National Park lands to the centre of the park at Rio Serrano. Below is an example of the 6 night itinerary planned but please note it is *only* an example and the route and day-by-day arrangements may be varied by your guide in his absolute discretion if weather, other local conditions or participants' riding experience requires.

Example itinerary - Baguales Mountains to Rio Serrano

Day 1 – Collected from your hotel in Puerto Natales at about 10.00 and driven approximately 130km north into the remote Baguales mountains that border Argentina. The last 30 minute are off-road so you will change to an UTV to reach the night's accommodation, Baguales Glamping, surrounded by rolling hills and towering mountains. A warm welcome, dinner prepared by the Chilean chef and served along with Chilean wine by the cozy stove. The night at Baguales Glamping in domes with private bathrooms. (L,D)



Day 2 - A full day ride in Sierra Baguales exploring this untamed, breathtaking landscape. The objective today is to allow you to get used to your horse and the Chilean tack, riding across picturesque moorland. Lunch is at an old “puesto”, a small homestead in which shepherds / gauchos would live, often in isolation for months. In the afternoon ride back to Baguales Glamping for dinner and the night (about 6 hours riding). (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Breakfast and mount up for the long ride ahead to Estancia Las Chinas, carrying a picnic lunch in saddlebags. There are several climbs and descents, crossing the rugged mountains to reach a pass, but also some broad valleys with good chances to move on. Hopefully you will see some local wildlife - fox, herds of guanaco, condors, beavers, and an array of bird species are often seen in this area - and if the stars align there's even a chance of catching a glimpse of elusive puma. Dinner and night at Estancia Las Chinas (around 5-6 hours riding). (B,L,D)



ITINERARY cont.

Day 4 - Breakfast and set off on a full day ride, first heading to Laguna Azul stopping for a picnic lunch on the way. Depending on weather and conditions for the route, you may pass but the “Salto Las Chinas” waterfall. After lunch you continue riding another 2 ½ to 3 hours to Laguna Amarga - there will be a couple of miles road work to the park entrance. The horses will remain in a paddock close by for the night. Drive back to Las Chinas (about 40 minutes) A pisco sour before dinner which might be a mouthwatering “Asado de cordero” (lamb barbecue) cooked by the gauchos over the fire. (Around 5-6 hours riding). (B,L,D)

Day 5 - After breakfast return by vehicle to meet the horses again for perhaps the longest riding day of the week as you head from Laguna Amarga to Rio Serrano village, right through the centre of the Park. The route passes along the edge of Lago Sarmiento with dramatic views of the Paine massif and of lakes of different shades of blue and grey before stopping for a welcome picnic lunch and rest at a spectacular viewpoint. After the lunch break, you have the option to carry on by vehicle or can continue riding all the way to Rio Serrano where the horses will stay in a paddock a little out of the village and riders will be collected and driven the last part to the night’s hotel, Pampa Lodge (or Refugio Pampa). Dinner and night at the hotel (around 6 hours riding). (B,L,D)



Day 6 - Breakfast and re-join the horses. Today’s route heads across the pampas towards Grey Lake and Grey Glacier, with wonderful views ahead dominated by the jagged, granite peaks of the Paine Massif. Lunch may be a picnic en-route or at the Hotel Lago Grey, where you also say goodbye to the horses. Continue on foot for about 30-40 minutes to meet the boat that will take you to the face of the Glacier, 17 km and a 3 hour round trip boat ride from Grey beach. Grey Glacier is a wonder of nature - 28 km in length with a total surface area of 270 square km, its frozen walls of crystalline ice tower almost 35 metres high. Parts of it regularly crack and tumble into the lake beneath in spectacular fashion - a great excitement if you are cruising close by! On return to the beach, walk back to meet the vehicle for transfer back to Pampa Lodge (or Refugio Pampa) for a farewell dinner and the final night (around 4 hours riding). (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Breakfast and transfer of about 1 ½ hours back to Puerto Natales /Airport aiming to arrive late morning. Own arrangements for onward travel. (B)



DATES & RATES 2025-2026

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD / sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay. (Rates valid to April 2026) Please enquire for autumn dates.

Baguales Mountains to Rio Serrano (6 nights)

8th to 14th November 2025

20th to 26th November 2025

15th to 21st December 2025

Other dates available on request

3rd to 9th January 2026

21st to 27th January 2026*

4th to 10th February 2026

21st to 27th February 2026*

10th to 16th March 2026

*Last 2 night in Refugio Pampa

Price depends on eventual group size

USD 7, 600 per person sharing if 5 or 6 riders

USD 8, 600 per person sharing if 3 or 4 riders; USD 9,600 per person sharing if 2 riders

If you book and other riders confirm so the ride rate decreases, your invoice will be reduced accordingly (or the difference refunded if you have already paid).

Single room Rates assume twin shared accommodation and if you are travelling alone (or wish to reserve single accommodation) a single occupancy supplement of USD 1200 is payable. This will be invoiced to ALL single travellers but if you are travelling alone and are happy to share with another rider (same sex) we can try and find a sharer for you and if we do the supplement will not be payable. If there is no-one to share however, you will be charged the supplement (as accommodation is so limited, reserving a single room, normally means there is capacity for one less rider on the ride).

Limited accommodation means that single rooms are not always possible and you may be asked to share on some nights.

Rates INCLUDE - All riding with English speaking riding guide and equipment, 6 nights twin accommodation, all meals from dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 7, some drinks with meals (some beer and soft drinks included with lunch, some house wine included with dinner), Park fees, boat trip to Grey Glacier, transfers by vehicle with the group at set times from / to Puerto Natales airport on first and last day.

Rates EXCLUDE - International flights to Chile and taxes, onward travel to Puerto Natales, airport transfers from / to Puerto Natales outside set times, your bar bill for extra drinks and all personal extras at hotels / estancias (eg shopping, phone calls, laundry etc), personal medical / travel insurance (which you **must** have), any visa fees and any tips / gratuities you may wish to leave.



FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The meeting point for the ride is the beautifully situated town of Puerto Natales, a fishing port on Last Hope Sound. To get to Puerto Natales, you will need to fly to Santiago, the capital of Chile, and then take an internal flight south to Puerto Natales (there are flight on most days during the season) OR you can fly from Santiago to Punta Arenas at the southern tip of Chilean Patagonia and transfer by bus from there (approx. 4 hours).

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FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont.

Either way you will need **to spend the night before the ride starts in Puerto Natales** - there are many different hotels and we can help with suggestions / booking.

After the ride the group will be driven back to Puerto Natales to arrive late morning on the final day. Flights out of Puerto Natales (there are flights back to Santiago) should depart **no earlier** than 13.00 - please contact us to discuss your travel plans **before** you book.

From the UK, British Airways have some direct flights from London Heathrow to Santiago and Iberia and Latam fly from London via Madrid or Sao Paolo to Santiago. From Santiago there are usually 2 or 3 flights each day to Puerto Natales, and 4 flights each day to Punta Arenas, although it is often necessary to spend a night in Santiago either on the way out or back due to flight connection times.

For International flights to Punta Arena / Puerto Natales from London budget around £1200 to £1500 Economy return, depending on the airline and season. Please call us for more flight information.

GENERAL VISA AND HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.)

Visas British, US and most European passport holders do not need to arrange a visa in advance to visit Chile for stays of less than three months BUT you should always check up to date requirements.

Health No jabs are required as a condition of entry to Chile from the UK and Europe but the TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are vaccinated against Tetanus. If you are not you should visit your GP or a travel clinic about 4 weeks before departure. If you plan a long trip or to visit other rural areas before or after the ride you should take further advice as other inoculations may be recommended.

(DRAFT 09/12/2025)

